

Serial No. 009/965,171

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-34 and add the following claims:

35. A method of sizing a patient's cardiac valve annulus, the method comprising:

(a) providing a valve sizer comprising:

(i) a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

(ii) a valve sizing portion having an outer dimension, the valve sizing portion including a movable element coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the movable element being movable between a first position and a second position;

(iii) an indicator located at the proximal end of the shaft, the indicator indicating a replacement valve size corresponding to the outer dimension of the valve sizing portion; and

(iv) an actuator at the proximal end of the shaft, the actuator being operatively coupled to the movable element for moving the movable element between the first and second positions;

(b) inserting at least a distal end of the valve sizer into the patient so that the movable element is positioned in the valve annulus;

(c) adjusting the movable element so that the movable element contacts the valve annulus by manipulating the actuator at the proximal end of the shaft; and

(d) removing the valve sizer from the patient after the adjusting step.

36. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the providing step includes providing the movable element having a plurality of arms, the plurality of arms having outer surfaces generally forming a generally circular shape in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis defined by the shaft, the plurality of arms being movable between the first and second positions.

37. The method according to Claim 36, wherein the plurality of arms move in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis defined by the shaft.

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38. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the providing step includes providing a rod extending through at least a portion of the shaft, the rod being operatively coupled to the actuator.

39. The method according to Claim 38, wherein the rod is rotatable relative to the shaft, the rod being coupled to the actuator so that rotation of the rod relative to the shaft moves the movable element between the first and second positions.

40. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the movable element includes a plurality of arms, and the providing step includes providing a disc attached to the rod, the disc having a plurality of slots that receive pins attached to the plurality of arms.

41. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the providing step includes providing a plurality of camming surfaces coupled to the shaft, the plurality of camming surfaces being configured to engage and cam the plurality of arms when the actuator is actuated to move the movable element from the first position to the second position.

42. The method according to Claim 35, wherein the outer dimension is no more than 21 mm when the movable element is in the first position.

43. The method according to Claim 42, wherein the outer dimension is no more than 19 mm when the movable element is in the first position.

44. The method according to Claim 42, wherein the outer dimension is at least 31 mm when the movable element is in the second position.

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45. The method according to Claim 42, wherein the outer dimension is at least 33 mm when the movable element is in the second position.

46. A method of sizing a patient's cardiac valve annulus, the method comprising:

(a) providing a valve sizer comprising:

(i) a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end;

(ii) a ring mounted to the distal end of the shaft, the ring being movable from a first position to a second position, the first position having a smaller diameter than the second position; and

(iii) an actuator mounted to the proximal end of the shaft, the actuator being operatively coupled to the ring for moving the ring from the first position to the second position;

(b) positioning the ring in the valve annulus of a patient;

(c) manipulating the actuator so that the ring expands and engages the valve annulus,

and

(d) removing the valve sizer from the patient after the manipulating step.

47. The method according to Claim 46, wherein the providing step includes providing the ring with a first part and a second part slidably coupled to the first part.

48. The method according to Claim 47, wherein the providing step includes providing the second part slidably received in a recess in the first part, the first part having first and second ends.